



City Manager's Office  
Communications Division  
PO Box 1810  
Wilmington, NC 28402-1810

910 342-2736  
910 341-5839 fax  
wilmingtonnc.gov  
Dial 711 TTY/Voice

Update 2 – 10:45 p.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 15, 2005

## **Update on sewer spill at Shipyard Boulevard**

The city is working to contain the sewage spilling from the 24-inch waste water pipe main line that ruptured at 3810 Shipyard Boulevard earlier today. Parts of Shipyard Boulevard remain closed to traffic due to the spill. Portions of PineValley Drive and Jeb Stuart Drive were also closed to all but local traffic.

Flow from the spill was initially contained by a berm, but that berm broke because of the high volume of water at about 5 p.m. Since that time, city crews have been pumping the flow back into the waste water system through manholes and pumping it out manually in tankers. Several nearby yards were flooded initially, but that had substantially subsided by 10 p.m.

Tonight when the flow of waste water is slowest, the system will be shut down for three to four hours so crews can dig down to the pipe to make the repair. The exact condition of the broken pipe will not be known until the excavation occurs. Crews will make a temporary repair to the pipe tonight and begin to examine a more long-term repair in the next few days.

The line pumps waste water to the Southside Waste Water Treatment Plant. City officials estimate that the rupture occurred sometime between 10-11 a.m. There is not yet an estimate of the amount of waste water that was released, but city officials say it was a very significant spill. However, much of the waste water had been pumped back into the system by late evening.

There is no threat to drinking water and waste water services have not been interrupted. However, as a precaution, the city recommends that citizens not come into contact with the water.

The city has notified residents in the affected area, both by door-to-door notification and distributing fliers. Signs have also been erected. State, county and health department officials have been notified as well.

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For more information, contact City PIO Malissa Talbert at 342-2736 or 470-8720.